In Appomattox County

Tobacco harvest now in full swing

By James A. Smith
Extension Agent

Tobacco harvest is in full swing -- flue and fire cured tobacco were being harvested this week. Some fire-cured growers tell me that this is as finer crop than they have ever cut. All growers are well aware that the final product will be determined by the man and weather conditions for curing.

Flue producers all share the concern that a large portion of the crop grown South of us is finding its way into storage operated by stabilization. This is a real concern, but it's too early to determine whether it will continue and to evaluate the impact.

* * *

It's that time of year to set aside fescue pasture and prepare for stockpiling.

These pastures need to be clipped or grazed closely and have 60-70 pounds of nitrogen applied. If lime, phosphorus and potash are needed, these materials should be applied also. Rember: when relatively high amounts of nitrogen are applied the pH will fall rapidly. Pastures that are frequently stockpiled need to have soil samples pulled regularly to monitor pH levels.

Stockpiling fescue is an important practice that a lot of cattlemen like.

Fescue stands with excellent stands of clover can omit the nitrogen, especially with most barns full of hay. These fields should be grazed down immediately or salvaged as hay.

* * *

There are an increasing number of herbicides being combined and given a different name. You'll need to read labels carefully before purchasing.

Several years ago Bicep came on the market; it is a combination of Princep and Aatrex. Now we have Bronco which is a mixture of Roundup and Lasso.

Another new product is called Tackle -- it has the same active ingredient as Blazer. There is a new trade name for Paraquat introduced this year.

Who said life was getting simpler? You'll need to read labels more closely than ever.

* * *

Last week at a field day I observed some soybean plots treated, with a post-directed application of Lorox plus 3,4-DB and cost about $5.00 per acre, opposed to $15.00+ for other herbicides placed over the top.

In these times, we'll need to look at effectiveness plus cost. Here again, careful attention needs to be paid to recommended method of application.

* * *

There's some interest in seeding turnips rutabagas, rape and kale for fall grazing.

Adequate soil fertility and control of competition from other plants are critical in establishment of these plants. Control of flea beetles will be necessary.

Resea- shows that August seedings will produce 3000 pounds of dry matter per acre when no nitrogen is applied. Nitrogen increased production to 6100 pounds of dry matter pr acre. Rape yields were generally lower.

They found that 85% of the samples of leaves, stems and roots had digestability values higher than 80% (alfalfa hay is about 70%). Protein ranged from 6% in turnip roots to 25% in rape and kale leaves.

Seeding rates are 1½ pounds per acre for turnips and 3½ pounds per acre for kale and rape. At least medium levels of p and k are needed plus 75 pounds of N. Grazing can begin in 60 to 70 days after seeding. Plans can be grazed well into freezing weather.

There is a new plant called Tyfron. It is a cross of Chinese cabbage and stubble turnip. It is very leafy and makes rapid regrowth.

The flowers of the common turnip are poisonous to livestock because of their high mustard oil content. Tyfron is low in mustard oil and does not create a problem. The oil will taint milk produced by grazing animals.

These may be useful crops to use as an option.

MRS. SHELBY TUCKER of Appomattox County displays an unusually large cabbage which she harvested from her home garden recently. Mrs. Tucker said that the cabbage, which weighed seven pounds, eight ounces, is one of several very large cabbages she has gotten from her garden this summer. (Photo by Bill Sherrod)

Belter is honored

Kenneth Leslie Belter of Spout Spring was named to the Honor's List at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland for the Spring semester and May term of 1982, according to a release from the college.

Full-time students are placed on the Honors List if, during the preceding period, they earn a quality point ratio of at least 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) and have no unsatisfactory grades.

The quality point ratio is calculated by dividing the number of quality points a student earns by the number of semester hours attempted. Four quality points are awarded for each semester hour passed with the grade of A, three for a B, two for a C, and one for a D.

Birth announced

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Letterman of Pamplin proudly announce the birth of twins, Steven Wayne, six pounds, three ounces, and Stephanie Leigh, six pounds, born on August 3 at the Virginia Baptist Hospital.

The Lettermans also have a daughter, Susan Renee, age three.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Letterman; paternal grandmother is Mrs. Alice Baldwin.

Birth announced

Mr. and Mrs. Will Cawthorne of Birmingham, Alabama are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Quentin King, born July 17, 1982, in Birmingham.

Paternal great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Rufus K. Cawthorne of Pompano Beach, Florida, formerly of Appomattox.

Happiness is 4-H

The Annual 4-H Fashion Revue and 4-H Canning Contest will be held on Tuesday, August 24, at the Appomattox County High School. The judging of the garment or outfit will begin at 10 a.m. in the high school cafeteria with the awards program to be held at 7 p.m.

4-H members may also enter canned goods in a special 4-H Canning Contest. Canned goods should be entered at the ACHS Cafeteria on Tuesday morning, August 24. Entries may be made in each of four categories: 1) Jams and Jellies; 2) Fruits; 3) Vegetables and 4) Pickles and relishes. Details on this program are available from the Extension Office.

* * *

4-H'ers planning to show dairy heifers, beef heifers, hogs and sheep in the Five County Fair should make sure that they are familiar with any special regulations which may apply. Beef and dairy heifers must have been calfhood vaccinated for brucellosis. If the animal was not calfhood vaccinated, it must have a negative test for brucellosis after July 1 of the Fair year. Tested animals must be accompanied by official papers.

* * *

A Virginia Hunter Safety Course will be taught for young people (and parents) on September 21, 22 and 23. The course will begin at 7 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. each evening. Young people, ages 11, and up are invited to sign up for the six-hour course. Details will be available in early September to all 4-H members who are interested. Interested persons may sign up early by calling the Extension Office. The Hunter Safety Course will be taught at the District

[Continued on page 5]

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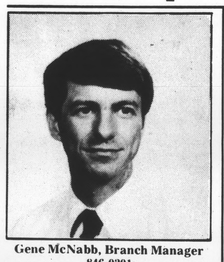

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